

Message Text

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44-40

ACTION SIG-02

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/022 W

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R 091307Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9347

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, AREC

SUBJ: MISMANAGEMENT AND IRREGULARITIES OF US EMPLOYEE
ASSOCIATION TEHRAN

1. AS A RESULT OF VISIT OF (1) FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS
AND AUDITORS, (2) PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF USEA MANAGE-
MENT PRACTICES BY RSO WITH ASSISTANCE OF OSI, (3) AUDIT
REPORT OF LOCAL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AND (4) ALARM OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF USEA OVER DELUGE OF UNFAVORABLE FIND-
INGS, EMBASSY IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS VULNERABILITY TO
FRAUD, EMBEZZLEMENT, AND POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG,
THE US MISSION , AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

2. INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISMANAGEMENT ON THE
PART OF AMERICAN AND LOCALLY HIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE RELATED
TO COMMISSARY AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES BY MISSION PERSONNEL
HAS BEEN CARRIED ABOUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITH AVAILABLE
RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE. WE NOW SEE A NEED FOR OUTSIDE HELP.

3. AT THIS POINT, WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO
REPLACE THE GENERAL MANAGER AND THE PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT
OF THE USEA. THIS MOVE, HOWEVER, WOULD LEAVE US UNABLE TO
CONTINUE OPERATION OF THE USEA-A FACILITY ESSENTIAL TO
THE OVERALL FUNCTION OF THE POST. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY
WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE TO (1) COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE AND
FULL AUDIT OF USEA ACCOUNTS AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES,
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(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCALLY SOUND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES,

(3) RECRUIT MANAGER AND ACCOUNTING CLERK. IN THIS CONNECTION, NEWLY ARRIVED ADMIN COUNSELOR BELIEVES THAT VIENTIANE ASSISTANT MANAGER OF COMMISSARY MIGHT BE QUALIFIED TO FURNISH COMPETENT GUIDANCE WITHOUT VESTED INTEREST AND COULD POSSIBLY BE OFFERED MANAGERSHIP OF USEA IN TEHRAN LATER. ALSO, SINCE VIENT BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT OFFICER JOHN MURTHA COMPLETED AUDIT OF SIMILAR OPERATION AT VIENTIANE AND IS KNOWN AS COMPETENT AUDITOR, WE WOULD LIKE HIS ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

4. IN OUR OPINION, IT WOULD TAKE BOTH MEN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH TO COMPLETE THE TASK DESCRIBED IN PARA 3. TEHRAN EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION WILLING TO PAY TRAVEL AND EXPENSES OF BOTH ABOVE EMPLOYEES AND EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE TRANSIENT HOUSING ON COMPOUND SITE.

5. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND VIENTIANE COMMENTS ON FOREGOING AND POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE FROM VIENTIANE. IF THIS NOT FEASIBLE WOULD APPRECIATE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION.
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